PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

President : Under sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I nominate Mr. T. W. U. Park and Mr. M. Govindan to form the Panel of Chairmen for this session of the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

President : The house will have to elect a member to the Medical Advisory Committee. The election will take place tomarrow, and will be held, as usual, after the business of the House for the day is over, under the chairmanship of one of the Panel of Chairmen. The ordinary system of voting by ballot will be adopted.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : Sir, I wish to bring to your notice as well as the notice of the House the difficulty that we members feel in the matter of the Bills that have been placed for the consideration of the House. The Bills as passed by the Assembly were received by us only yesterday evening.

Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai : This is not the proper time for raising that matter.

President : The honourable member may raise the matter a little later.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

President : I have received notice of two adjournment motions. One is from Mr. S. Veeriah Reddiar with regard to the Alleppey Commercial canal not being navigable at this moment.

> "I beg leave to move an adjournment motion to bring to the notice of Government the urgent situation that has arisen during the last four days viz. boats loaded with cargo are unable to ply in the Alleppey Commercial Canal and load and unload cargo at the various jetties, owing to the shallowness of the canal."

Obviously this is a matter of urgent public importance and Government have to look into the matter most carefully. They will do so immediately. I do not know whether the honourable member will be content with the assurance that Government are aware that during the summer season there is difficulty for vallams to ply in the Alleppey canal. Last year also there was similar difficulty. This matter will be immediately looked into. If, in spite of this assurance, the honourable member wishes to move the adjournment motion he can do so. The motion is in order.

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Mr. S. Veeriah Reddiar (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : ശ്രീമൻനാരായണൻ നമ്പൂതിരിയുടെ ചോദ്യത്തിന്റെ ഉത്തരം പറയുന്നതിന്റെ കൂടെ ഞാൻ ഈ അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം പ്രസ് ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല.

President : I may assure the honourable member that the matter will be looked into. It is a matter involving the commercial prospects of the whole country.

The next motion is that of Mr. Chidambarathanu Pillai.

"I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance namely the serious situation brought about in Nanchinad as the result of most inequitable and irregular methods of distribution of water for irrigation in the land under the Thovala Channel by the recent unexpected breach caused in the 10th (5) Mile of the above channel and the consequent loss and difficulties to which the public are recently put to."

There is no doubt that the matter is of urgent public importance and if the honourable member, after hearing what I have got to say, wants to move the adjournment motion, I shall fix tomorrow for that purpose.

A breach 50 feet long, 20 feet average width and 15 feet height occurred on 30th January 1945. Immediately, the closing of the breach was commenced, all the officers working vigorously at the spot. The breach was closed and water was let into the channel from 2nd February 1945. On account of the prompt action of the departmental officers, the breach was closed and channel head works opened in 48 hours. The paddy fields at the tail end were not affected in the least as a result of the breach. No serious situation has been brought about in Nanjinad on account of any inequitable or irregular method of water distribution as alleged in the adjournment motion. The breach has been the result of the development of a seepage plane into a hole, due to washing out of the finer particles of earch over a long period or other causes not always within control. No loss or any difficulty has resulted from this breach as it is attempted to be made out by the motion. It is not sought to justify the breach, nor is a certain neglect alleged beyond the realm of possibility. Government are greatly concerned over this matter, as they were concerned over another breach that occurred in South Travancore sometime ago. Government are now entering into an exhaustive enquiry as to the liability, if any, of the officers both supervisory and on the spot and the honourable member may be rest assured that every step will be taken to see if there was any default and if it is found out that there was any default on any officer, that will be taken very severe notice of.

If the honourable member wishes to move the adjournment motion, I shall fix tomorrow for the purpose. It is in order.

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